UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25331
25 February 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.,
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the letter of His Excellency Mr. Ilija Djukic, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as the official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 24 February 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to the letter, dated 19 February 1993, addressed to you by the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the incident involving the Republic of Croatia, I regret to inform you that Croatian provocations have not stopped on the border with the Republic of Montenegro. On 20 February 1993 at 13:40 hours, a Croatian anti-tank missile hit and destroyed a non-combat vehicle of the Yugoslav Army. A soldier, Obrad Radović, died and a civilian, Desimir Tešović, was seriously injured.

In order to prevent the evacuation of the killed soldier and attendance of the wounded civilian, the Croatian forces opened fire from all weapons, so that the Yugoslav Army was forced to return fire and ensure the evacuation of the casualties. The Croatian side fired back from the well-known positions held in the villages of Dubravka, Pelinovo Brdo and Česmina Glava, again using all types of weapons. The fighting went on till 14:30 hours when the Yugoslav Army units ceased fire. However, the Croatian army kept attacking until 15:30 hours, the time when UNPROFOR patrol vehicle came.

I am very much concerned by the development of the situation. Their latest provocation involved serious action against both military and civilian targets and caused a loss of life on the Yugoslav side. I am not aware whether there were any casualities on the Croatian side. I regret if they had any, even though it was the Croatians who provoked the incident. Human losses are irreparable and deepen the mistrust of each other and discord. And this is obviously the goal pursued by the Croatian side.

Indeed, repeated provocations with ever graver consequences indicate that Croatia intends to renew the fighting in this area as well. The conflict which broke out in the Konavle area in September 1991 was caused by a series of provocations and attacks by Croatian irregulars against the army garrisons in the Prevlaka peninsula and in Montenegro. Unless the Croatian side is prevented from renewing the conflict, that will also mean breaking the commitments made under the auspices of the United Nations and by direct mediation efforts of senior United Nations officials. In this context, I would like to recall that the Presidents of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and of Croatia signed the Joint Declaration on 30 September 1992. Paragraph 6 of this Declaration requests the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army under the Vance plan, settlement of issues related to security in this area through demilitarization and deployment of United Nations observers and renegotiation of general security in Boka Kotorska Bay and Dubrovnik.

It is gratifying for me to point out that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has fulfilled all its commitments and that full agreement on the status of the Prevlaka peninsula as a United Nations Protected Area and on the

"yellow" demilitarized zones has been reached with United Nations representatives deployed in the area as well as that the commitments entered into should be strictly complied with, as a basis for further negotiations.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations himself stated in his report that the Yugoslav side has complied with its commitments in a proper and timely manner, and he commended it. On the other hand, the Croatian side does not recognize and continuously violates the status of Prevlaka and the demilitarized zone, while on a part of the border with former Bosnia-Herzegovina it is ever more frequently and blatantly provoking clashes.

I believe that you share my view that the situation is very grave. Fresh provocations by the Republic of Croatia threaten to cause even more fierce fighting. If this happens, there is a great danger that the situation could get out of hand. This must be prevented by all means. Therefore, I should like to ask you to bring this appeal to the attention of the Council in order to take immediate action to impress upon the Republic of Croatia and its President to comply with the understandings undertaken under the auspices and with the great authority of the world Organization.

In anticipation of an urgent action by the Council.

(Signed) Ilija DJUKIĆ